

highly improper for a whole district.—Lord Ebrington was in favour of the plans as proposed by the surveyors.

The Earl of Carlisle said it was desirable to carry the scheme immediately into effect, as the state of the workhouse [recently set forth in *THE BUILDER*] would admit of no delay.—The motion for the adoption of the plan was then put and agreed to.

The Salaries of the Officers of the Commission.—Mr. Bullar then moved, pursuant to notice, "That from January 5, 1849, the salary of the order clerk be 800*l.* a-year, the salary of the consulting engineer 400*l.* a-year, and the salary of Mr. Phillips, as one of the chief surveyors 600*l.* a-year. The motion was agreed to *unanimously*."

On the motion of Mr. Chadwick, it was agreed "That it be referred to the Works' Committee to obtain plans, models, specimens of soil, pan apparatus, taps, and sinks, for the completion of house drainage and providing public conveniences, in accordance with the Act, and not to expend more than 60*l.* for that purpose."

On the motion of Mr. Bullar, seconded by Mr. Chadwick, the following resolutions were agreed to:—

"That no order be given to any contractor or other tradesmen, and no other expense be incurred, with reference to any work, experiment, or investigation, without the written certificate of the order clerk, the consulting engineer, or one of the chief surveyors, of the propriety of such order or expense."

"That it be an instruction to the Finance Committee, while it continues, to require and receive, as regards orders given and expenses incurred before March 15, 1849, inclusive, the certificate as to its propriety of the officer under whose supervision the work, experiment, or investigation in question was conducted; and as regards orders given and expenses incurred with reference to works, experiments, and investigations after that date, the certificate as to its propriety of the order clerk, the consulting engineer, or one of the chief surveyors."

The Committee Question.—On the motion that certain committees appointed provisionally at the last court be confirmed as orders of court,

Mr. Leslie rose and said that on the subject of these committees they had got the opinion of the law officers of the Crown. They had also got the resolutions and a protest against them, and he wished to know which was the correct view of the case. They were now called upon to take a long string of resolutions into consideration, and were they to pass them, in a week or two they might find that they were acting illegally again. To guard against such an occurrence, he felt it to be his duty, painful as it was, to move as an amendment, that the resolution proposed, with the protest that had been signed against them by four commissioners, be referred to the law officers of the Crown.

Mr. E. Lawes seconded the amendment.

Lord Ebrington was opposed to the reference of questions not involving points of law, but of policy, and believing the present question to be one of policy he should vote against the amendment.

Mr. Bullar was not about to give his opinion as a lawyer, as he had before declined being the legal adviser of the Commission. However, since the last court he had taken the opinion of a friend residing in the Temple, and whose intelligence he believed to be quite equal to that of the Attorney and Solicitor General (as we understood), and with him they went word by word through the orders, comparing them with the statute; and it was his friend's decided opinion that these orders were quite legal. Another friend, too, to whom he had submitted them had come to the same conclusion, except as to the 3rd rule, in which a question of legality might possibly arise. He (Mr. Bullar) had no wish to criticise the protest, but he felt assured that if he sat down for the opposite side he should find no difficulty in taking 500 objections, every one of which should be as valid as those contained in the protest.

Mr. Chadwick protested against the impression that anything had been going forward that was illegal. A great deal had been said about being taken into the Court of Queen's Bench by *certiorari*. He thought that subject gentlemen would be very unwilling to risk their own money. That the public money had been culpably misapplied in the waste of the time of the Court he believed no impartial man entertained a doubt; and as to the law of the case, he never heard of any so fundamentally bad as had been opposed to the proceedings of a sub-division of labour. With regard to the reference of these orders to the law officers of the Crown, he (Mr. C.) should as soon think of referring to the Attorney-General on the construction of a water-closet as on any one of these regulations.

After some further discussion, the amendment was put and negatived by a majority of 12 to 2, and the confirmation of the appointment of the committees was agreed to.

The Ordnance Survey.—A lengthy report was received from the Ordnance Survey Committee, which set out by giving a number of questions to Capt. Yolland, of the Royal Engineers, on the

practicability of increasing the three-mile radius to a scale of 10 feet to the mile, for the purpose of laying down the details of house drainage, with his answers thereto. It also stated the fact, that although the estimated cost of the survey was 24,000*l.*, the work would be completed for 3,000*l.* within that amount, and 5,000*l.* below the estimate given in by the civil surveyors.

Sir H. de la Beche said it was very important that they had been able to save so large an amount, as it would nearly enable them to engrave the plates, and to form blocks of houses. Without much trouble they would be enabled to enlarge such portions of the survey as might be desirable from time to time. The work of the survey had been one of extreme success, and might, if necessary, be consulted by persons laying out property, and for other purposes. He believed that when their labours were closed, it would be found that the interests of the public had been well protected.—Mr. Chadwick believed that the engraving of the plates would be executed at a cost of 6*l.* per sheet, in a manner superior to that of the Ordnance maps at 10*l.* per sheet.—The report was then received, and, after some works of emergency were ordered, the court adjourned.

Miscellaneous.

THE SAXON CHURCH AT STOWE.—The nave foundations are now under repair with Yorkshire stone cramped together and laid in cement. It is said, too, that Archdeacon Stonehouse has entered into contracts for the nave and chancel repairs. Unfortunately, however, the parishioners appear to be restive under the anticipated infliction of a church rate for a system of repair carried out on one principle, while an alleged preference is given to another; so that between two extreme and opposing lines of procedure, it is possible that justice may fail to be done to this venerable mother church. Those who supply the rate appear to be mere utilitarians—or rather, we may say, necessitarians—who are only willing to vote for "necessary repairs," while the executive has an eye to a special system of alteration and adornment in combination with the mere prop work, but without the sympathy of his constituents. "For the restoration of this old church," says a contemporary, "a public appeal should be made, and the repairs and restorations should be under the direction of some experienced architect."

PORTABLE STEAM-ENGINES.—The *Scottish Agricultural Journal* describes a farm steam-engine at work near Edinburgh. It is of four-horse power, and drives a six-horse thrashing mill. In length it is 8 feet, including fire-box, boiler, smoke-box, and carriage, which latter is constructed of timber, bound with iron-work, and placed on iron axles and wheels; the fore carriage working on an axle, so as to admit of its being easily turned. The breadth over the axle is 6 feet, and the height to the top of the driving-wheel 5 feet. The height of the chimney is 15 feet, but when the engine is not at work, it is lowered by a joint at 10 feet from its summit, into "a saddle." The boiler is tubular, and can be easily repaired, and the smoke-box removed, so as to clean out the soot of the chimney and the tubes: means are used to prevent any issue of sparks from the chimney. The driving wheel is about 5 feet in diameter. One of the boiler tubes is made of softer metal than the others, so that, in the event of neglect or stupidity in overloading the boiler, this tube will give way and extinguish the fire, thus preventing the chance of explosion. The engine, it is said, can do all the work generally executed by manual or beastial power on the farm steading, and may be employed in pumping water, making tiles, or sawing wood; and being "a moveable subject," it can be "sold, alienated, or disposed of" at pleasure, or used jointly by a number of farmers.

GIRDER-BRIDGE AT BARNES.—An accident occurred here lately by the giving way of a winch on a travelling frame which crosses the Thames where a new iron girder-bridge is forming, to continue the loop line from the Barnes station of the Richmond Railway to Twickenham. A girder of seven tons weight had been raised from a barge and lowered to within three inches of its place, when the connecting-rods and timber arm gave way, and the winch and platform fell, when one of three workmen jumped into the river, and was carried down with the tide and lost.

CALICO BY THE MILE.—VERY LONG CLOTH.—The cylinder printing machines in Messrs. Hoyle's print works, Manchester, print a mile of calico in an hour! If fifteen of these machines work uninterruptedly for ten hours each day, and for six days in the week, they would be able to print cotton dresses in one such week for one hundred and sixty-two thousand ladies! According to the *Birmingham Journal*, the actual number of miles of calico printed by this firm alone in a single year exceeds ten thousand, one fourth more than the diameter of our planet.

GAS MONITOR.—The assistant-secretary of the Baths and Washhouses for the Labouring Classes, Mr. Woolcott, has written to us to say that the advertisement in *THE BUILDER* of last week, which states that the use of the gas-light monitor has effected a saving of 10,000 cubic feet of gas, in six weeks, at the model establishment, Goulston-square, White-chapel, is incorrect; but as the note goes on to say that the monitor is no doubt useful in regulating and saving the consumption of gas, and that the committee are about to have more of them fitted up, we do not see the value of the contradiction.

THE ROYAL CYCLOPAMA.—We spoke in terms of commendation of the Cyclopama of Lisbon's Destruction by Earthquake, at the Colosseum, when it was first opened, but its effect upon us then was less powerful than it was on a second visit lately. Mr. Bradwell has the machinery more under control now than at first, especially for the management of the lights, on which much depends. The sunrise in the opening view at the mouth of the Tagus is beautifully managed, and the effect of the storm is appalling. We were somewhat surprised to hear that neither Her Majesty the Queen, nor the Prince, has yet seen this work. A visit from these illustrious personages, so well qualified to judge of its merits, and usually willing to give their countenance where it is deserved, would be a gratifying reward to those who have carried out this undertaking, and one which, considering the elegance of the building raised for the exhibition, the extent of the painting, and the costliness of the experiment, they might not unreasonably hope for.

MR. HENNING, THE SCULPTOR.—The *Art-Journal* for April contains an interesting sketch of the life of John Henning, sen., best known by his reduced and restored copy of the Elgin frieze, the chief intention of which is to raise a fund to engrave this work for the benefit of the sculptor. We cordially wish the scheme success. It was commenced by the late Mr. Freebairn, but went no further than one plate.

BEST OF FRANCIS BAILY.—At the annual general meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society, Sir John F. W. Herschel, Bart., presented to that body a marble bust of their late President, Francis Baily, D.C.L., the gift of Miss Baily, his only surviving sister, with an appropriate address, which appears in the Society's transactions for February, 1849.

COST OF PIPES AND DRAINS.—The following is a list of tenders for 0.350 ft. of stone-ware pipe, to be laid in Oxford, and 450 ft. of 3 ft. by 2 ft. 9 in. half-brick tunnel, in mortar, in the same line. The sizes of pipes were 4, 10, 15, and 20 in. Also a 15 in. cast-iron syphon-pipe, 20 ft. long, and a 9-in. wall, at each end of drain, for rest of mouth of pipes. Tenders opened on the 3rd of April.

For excavation and brick tunnel, &c.:

Yeoman, of London	146	0	0
Winterbourne, of Oxford	534	0	0
Adams, of Oxford	320	0	0
Hopk, of Oxford	465	6	0
Trearne, of London	459	0	0

For pipes only:

Smith, of London	856	0	0
Stiff, of London	814	0	0
Doulton, of London	843	1	0
Green, of London	794	14	0
Doulton, of St. Helen's	769	0	0

For the whole work:

Peatree	1,300	0	0
Trearne, of London	1,253	0	0
Dethick, of London	1,247	0	0
Richards	1,245	0	0

Trearne's tender for groundwork, &c., accepted; J. Doulton, of St. Helen's, accepted for the pipes.